

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, OCT. 22, 1870.

SUNDAY, Oct. 16.—Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity. Remarkable darkness at midday in Quebec, 1785.
MONDAY, " 17.—St. Etheldreda, V. Burgoyne's surrender, 1777.
TUESDAY, " 18.—St. Luke, Ev. Second battle of Leipsic, 1813. Crown-Prince of Prussia born, 1831.
WEDNESDAY, " 19.—Leigh Hunt born, 1784. St. Albans raid, 1864.
THURSDAY, " 20.—Battle of Navarino, 1827.
FRIDAY, " 21.—Battle of Trafalgar, Lord Nelson killed, 1805.
SATURDAY, " 22.—Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, 1685. Lord Holland died, 1840.

THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1870

THE Franco-Prussian war continues without much change of aspect, except that its barbarities are rapidly on the increase. The Franks-Tireurs, an independent force, originally organized in the Vosges, but recently spread over the whole country, have been shot by the Prussians wherever found, on the plea that, as they do not belong to the French army, they have no claim to be treated as prisoners of war. In return for this savage treatment, the Franks-Tireurs have hoisted the black flag, and operate in detached parties against the rear and flank of the Prussian forces, giving the latter endless annoyance, and, we need scarcely add, making no prisoners except in the arms of death. Rumours of fever at Metz within the town, and amongst the besieging army around it, with rinderpest amongst the Prussian horses and cattle, and the disease spreading through Alsace and into the Rhenish Provinces; with nostalgia among the Prussian troops; sickness and famine among the French peasants; and with increasing bitterness and barbarity on both sides, we have a terrible picture of the horrors of the war. The Prussians continue to ravage the country, and lay the towns and villages under heavy contributions; but as yet the threatened bombardment of Paris has not commenced.

The Prussians are, however, steadily tightening their grasp on the throat of France. Position after position is given up by the French, and the victorious foe, at one time towards the north, at another to the south, is extending his lines, capturing and sometimes burning villages, levying contributions of money, and gathering provisions wherever found. On Tuesday last they had advanced as far as the neighbourhood of the city of Orleans, about sixty miles south-west of Paris, where fighting was then going on. They are also advancing in other directions with the evident intention not merely of surrounding the city of Paris, but of laying the country under tribute for their own maintenance during the period of occupation. Big words and flowery proclamations come from the Republican chiefs with occasional assurances that Paris is quiet and confident, but the creation of the new armies has not been so rapid as the National Defence Committee had promised. On the other hand, the German enthusiasm for the war has manifestly declined: the efforts of the French Government to secure peace having at least excited sympathy, while the proclamation of the Republic gave new strength to the hopes of the German democracy. The King must, therefore, find the continuance of the war growing daily more burthensome. In spite of the advances which his troops have been making, it is very doubtful indeed whether the operations of the last fortnight have not been quite as injurious to the interests of Prussia as to those of France; and though the King may only be fighting for what he calls just terms of peace and security for the future, it would not be unworthy the sagacity of his chief minister, nor his own known views, were he resolved upon getting a certain amount of security out of his own people as well as from his enemy. The Germans entered into the war with extraordinary enthusiasm, and their numerous and brilliant victories during the first few weeks, made them believe that they had only to march upon Paris, when it would be theirs. But the surrender at Sedan, followed by the proclamation of the Republic, put a new face upon affairs. In Italy, Victor Emmanuel marched upon Rome to save himself from the revolution; in France it is not impossible that King William believes it safer to keep his subjects fighting against the Republic, than to permit them to agitate, or perhaps to fight, for it at home. The conquest of France can hardly enter into his dreams. He professes only to desire the formation of a Government that will possess authority to negotiate and bind the nation to the fulfilment of whatever terms may be agreed upon; yet he pushes on the war, rendering it

impossible for the French people to settle the internal question of Government, at the same time that he is swelling to an enormous amount the expenses of the war, and putting France daily in a worse position to pay them. This is scarcely consistent with a simple desire for peace. The persistent refusal of a truce means something more on the part of Bismarck and the King than the securing of an honourable peace with indemnity for losses during the war. And it is in this direction that Prussia's danger lies—by seeking too much, it is more than probable that present advantages will be sacrificed. The sympathy of the world is rapidly turning towards France; German enthusiasm is declining; and above all, the French people, as they begin to recognize that the war is one for national existence, are exhibiting the terrible energy of desperation. Under such influences it would be little wonder if the tide of battle were to turn. If it be true that Paris is fit to stand a six months' siege, the effort to take it is a hopeless one, and the King but throws away his opportunity by declining terms of peace which would not humiliate France. At the present time Prussia may fairly claim to be the greatest military power in Europe: the circumstances are favourable for the still more complete unification of Germany under the Prussian Crown, and a peace now would, in all probability, be a lasting one, leaving Prussia with all her tremendous military strength, developed in this war, unimpaired. On the other hand, the prolongation of the war, instead of adding to that strength, will inevitably diminish it; the financial resources of the country will be crippled, and if France cannot repel the invader, she can at least make his stay upon her soil destructive of his strength. We think, therefore, that the war has reached a point from which its progress will prove mutually exhausting, and that the real interests of Prussia as well as of France would be best served by the speedy conclusion of peace. We regret that present indications give no hope of a consummation so desirable.

The Hon. Edward Kenny, late President of the Council, and more recently Administrator of the Government of Nova Scotia, has received the honour of Knighthood. Sir Edward has many friends throughout the Provinces who will rejoice at this manifestation of the Royal favour.

THE SCHOOL HISTORY CONTROVERSY.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

SIR,—I regret that you continue to approve of Dr. Miles' History for the use of schools, the sanction of which by the Council of Public Instruction I consider to be a grievous wrong to the youth of Canada, that demands a remedy.

You will admit with me that books for model schools should be model books; and that no books should be more carefully prepared, or written, than school books upon which young scholars are to form their ideas of things, and the most appropriate words and style for expressing them. Now, coolly and dispassionately, without fear, favour, or affection, does the "history" in question come up to this, or to any respectable standard? I think you must also agree with me that in public instruction events that may be condensed into a dictionary of dates are of less importance in our day, when our boys leave school to enter politics, and the exercise of political rights, than a condensed constitutional history of our country (for we are said to have one now) which might easily be made plain to youthful comprehension. Our youth, upon whom we force books for hard study, may by right demand that they shall be the best, upon the same principle that an apprentice, in this day of machinery and improvements, may demand tools of the most approved description.

My references to several paragraphs were not intended as "quotations," but as directions to passages replete with ill-chosen words, miserable diction, and distortion of facts. Think of reading that Washington with New England militia covered Braddock's defeat, when there was no New England militia there, and Washington, being on the General's staff, without a command, was with those who escaped in a disorderly race of some forty miles.

You apply to the author the word "loyal," as though it might not be applicable to some nameless one. "Loyalty," in its best signification, is not an adherence to dynasties or defending their abuses. Its highest and noblest signification is found in the word "patriotism," or love of our country (which for colonists is their colony) and the maintenance of these principles of right that have come down with the glorious traditions of our race. These were the attributes of those who battled for colonial right in the twenty years that preceded 1837, and whose triumph was in the establishment of true loyalty in every British possession abroad, contentment everywhere, in place of dissatisfaction.

The very important question of good books for schools should not be mixed, or smothered, in the very unimportant question of "what I am or have been;" and I feel that it may be the opposite of good breeding for me to speak of myself, but must I be forever provoked by the narrative of a great battle and slaughter, repeated on the coinage of excited times, when the event, seen under my own eyes, was merely the dis-

person (with some loss of life) by a military force of infantry and artillery, of a few scores of country people, who could scarcely be said to be "armed," hastily assembled, where the whole business of a chief was, if possible, to get them away in order, and kept together?

11th October, 1870.

T. S. B.

The *Scientific American*, confessedly the ablest scientific journal published on the American continent, in its issue of the 8th inst. gives the following very flattering notice of the *Canadian Illustrated News*—

"This excellent weekly periodical, which is about the size of the *Scientific American* and other current illustrated papers, now comes to us greatly improved in its style of illustrations. Our Canadian cotemporary has from the first exhibited a commendable spirit of enterprise in the production of all its engravings by the photographic process, and now, by the recent introduction of improved steam presses, it is enabled to print its photographic pictures as quickly, and in almost as good style, as the ordinary hand-cut wood engravings. We have seen some admirable specimens of printed photographs from nature done by the same method as that employed for the illustrations of the *Canadian News*, namely, Leggo's process, of Montreal. The publisher of the *Canadian Illustrated News* is Mr. George E. Desbarats, a practical printer of much experience, ability, and enterprise. The credit of establishing a weekly newspaper, profusely and regularly illustrated by photographic plates, belongs to Canada. There is no other paper like it in the world, that we know of. The Leggo process above alluded to, was some time ago fully described in the *Scientific American*."

We may say that in the course of a few weeks we shall still further improve our steam printing facilities; and as two of our best Canadian paper manufacturers are now engaged in preparing a sheet specially adapted for the *News*, we hope soon to be able to still further improve our illustrations. The Leggo process is proving itself equal to the best means of pictorial illustration, and neither means nor effort will be spared in bringing it to perfection. We have also to thank many of our Canadian cotemporaries for favourable and flattering notices during the past few weeks.

THE GLENFIELD PATENT STARCH.—The admirers of what may be called "commercial literature" must have often been struck with the beauty and exactness of the portraits of Her Majesty and the Princess of Wales, which adorn the Glenfield Starch Company's labels. This company recently undertook a great lawsuit and carried it through successfully for the restraint of a certain party by the name of Currie, who ventured to use their trade mark. The Company obtained an injunction effectually restraining Currie from any further use of even a part of their privileged title for their very popular article for household use. The same firm issued a most complete and exact map of the theatre of war, and have altogether shewn themselves thoroughly up to the requirements of business. That this starch has superior merits the very expense incurred to introduce it to the public is abundant proof, while the patronage of the Royal Laundry is no small tribute to its excellence. We have no doubt the Glenfield Patent Starch will become in the mouths of the people of Canada as familiar as "household words."

The manufacturers were awarded prizes for it at the Great Exhibition of 1862, and at every other "World's fair" since held.

THE RED RIVER COUNTRY, HUDSON'S BAY AND NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES, by A. J. RUSSELL, C. E. Montreal: G. E. DEBARATS, Publisher, 1870.

This is the third edition of Mr. Russell's book on the North-West; and besides an accurate and very complete map it contains a number of interesting illustrations. The work has already been favourably received by the press on the issue of former editions, the present one having been got out only to meet the pressing demand for it. It is for sale by Messrs. Dawson Brothers of this city, who, we presume, will fill orders from the trade or from individuals.

THE WAR NEWS.

The situation in and before Paris still remains unchanged, and there seems to be but little hope for the safety of the city. The Prussians have made their preparations for shelling and attacking the city. Siege guns and mortars have arrived from Strasburg, and are placed in position. The besieged show no sign of capitulating, and it is evident that a long space of time must elapse before the city can be reduced. The German investing force consists of seven army corps, numbering 280,000 men, besides cavalry, which will probably bring the total up to 340,000. The French garrison consists of 50,000 regulars, 350,000 National Guards, and 300,000 Gardes Mobiles, making a total of 700,000. It is said that the city is in good condition for resisting the siege, and will be able to hold out for at least six months. The besieged constantly make sorties upon the Prussians, who are thus kept in a continual state of activity. Hitherto the victories in these skirmishes have been pretty evenly divided, but the Prussians have been compelled to evacuate Fontainebleau and Pithiviers, without gaining any compensating advantage. A second cordon is being drawn around the city, at a distance of 30 leagues outside the first line, and though the French have made energetic efforts to arrest its progress, the outside Prussian line has already reached Ronen, and occupy in force the south-eastern part of Normandy. The Garde Mobile of the north-western provinces are moving up to occupy the north of Picardy and the